

EXHIBIT 17

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

IN RE: Chapter 11
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND Case No. 20-10343 (LSS)
DELAWARE BSA, LLC,
Courtroom No. 2
824 North Market Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
Debtors. Friday, November 12, 2021
10:00 A.M.

TRANSCRIPT OF OMNIBUS HEARING
BEFORE THE HONORABLE LAURIE SELBER SILVERSTEIN
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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1 MATTERS GOING FORWARD:

2 Debtors' Emergency Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Enforcing
3 the Solicitation Procedures Order, (II) Enforcing Section 1103
4 of the Bankruptcy Code Against the Tort Claimants' Committee,
and (III) Granting Related Relief (D.I. 7118, filed
11/10/2021)

5 **Court's Ruling: Matter Continued**

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1 (Proceedings commence at 10:04 a.m.)

2 THE COURT: Good morning. This is Judge
3 Silverstein. We're here in the Boy Scouts of America
4 bankruptcy, Case 20-10343.

5 I received some emails this morning. I want to
6 make sure I understand what I have received.

7 Mr. Abbott, can you tell me what I received this
8 morning?

9 MR. ABBOTT: Your Honor, I'm sorry, we couldn't
10 hear anything you were saying on our end.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

12 Can you hear me now?

13 (No verbal response)

14 THE COURT: No.

15 (Pause)

16 THE COURT: I'm going to try again. Can anyone
17 hear me?

18 (No verbal response)

19 THE COURT: No.

20 THE CLERK: Good morning, counsel. This is the
21 Delaware Bankruptcy Court.

22 Are you able to hear us on your end?

23 MR. ABBOTT: We are now, yes. Thank you.

24 THE COURT: Thank you. This is Judge Silverstein.
25 We're here in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy, Case 20-

1 10343, for a limited hearing in connection with matters
2 regarding the debtors' motion with respect to the email sent
3 out by the committee.

4 So I received two -- I guess drafts of two letters
5 this morning. I would like to understand what it is I have
6 received.

7 Mr. Abbott.

8 MR. ABBOTT: Thank you, Your Honor. Derek Abbott
9 of Morris Nichols here for the debtors.

10 Your Honor, as the court directed, the parties met
11 and conferred to try to collectively come up with a single
12 communication as to which all parties could agree.
13 Unfortunately, they did not agree. What Your Honor has two
14 letters; one that is proposed by the parties other than the
15 TCC, the other proposed by the TCC.

16 Your Honor, I'm happy to turn it over to Ms. Lauria
17 if you would like to hear discussion about those or ask
18 questions. Obviously, all those folks are on the phone and
19 happy to try to answer the court's questions and explain why
20 they think that their particular letter is more appropriate.

21 THE COURT: Yes. Let me hear from Ms. Lauria, then
22 I will hear from Mr. Stang. And I have some thoughts and
23 questions, quite frankly, about the way to proceed, but let me
24 hear from Ms. Lauria.

25 MS. LAURIA: Sure, Your Honor. Jessica Lauria,

1 White & Case, on behalf of the Boy Scouts.

2 Your Honor, Mr. Molton and others may have further
3 comments or points that they want to make with respect to the
4 letter, but from the debtors' perspective there are two points
5 of distinction between the two letters that are meaningful to
6 us.

7 I am looking at the TCC's letter, and the way you
8 can tell it's the TCC's, I'm not sure how they were labeled
9 when you received them, Your Honor, but if you see the bold
10 language in, sort of, I guess, the second paragraph of the
11 letter the first sentence of the bold language says,

12 "Our distribution of Mr. Kosnoff's email and letter to
13 the TCC email list was a mistake."

14 That is one instance where we have the first point
15 of disagreement. The TCC would like to characterize it as a
16 mistake. The plan -- the debtor and I believe the other plan
17 supporters want to characterize it as wrong and inappropriate,
18 and I can tell you why.

19 Just for sake of completeness I want to point you
20 to the second point of dispute, again, at least from the
21 debtors' perspective and that is at the end of -- after you
22 see the bold language there is one sentence called out not in
23 bold, the next paragraph the last sentence of that says
24 parties in the BSA bankruptcy case have asserted that Mr.
25 Kosnoff's email and letter contain false, misleading and

1 inaccurate statements that are inconsistent with the court
2 approved disclosure statement, and that the TCC's counsel
3 should not have used its email account to send Mr. Kosnoff's
4 letter.

5 The dispute is that this says parties in the BSA
6 bankruptcy case instead of just affirmatively saying it
7 contained false, misleading and inaccurate statements, and
8 that the TCC's counsel should not have sent the letter. So,
9 again, from the debtors' perspective those are the two
10 principal points of contention between the two letters.

11 We believe, when I look at that first point of
12 contention, mistake v. wrong and inappropriate, as I
13 understand it the TCC believes that sending the email to Mr.
14 Kosnoff's purported clients was not a mistake, that they sent
15 that intentionally and that the only mistake that was made was
16 sending it to the broader TCC server.

17 We think they are still just missing the boat on
18 this point, Your Honor. We think there are four reasons why it
19 was, in fact, wrong and inappropriate.

20 Reason one is we don't think the official TCC email
21 address should ever be used to be sending a state court
22 counsel's communication to his clients, period, full stop.
23 That should not ever happen. That should not be used for the
24 official email address. And to make matters worse, as we
25 understand it, they relied on Mr. Kosnoff's representation

1 that the 12,000 individuals were his clients, but unlike Omni,
2 and I will turn to what Omni does in a moment, I don't believe
3 that there was any diligence done in terms of ascertaining
4 whether these individuals were, in fact, his clients. Again,
5 even if they did we still think it's wrong.

6 We still think they should not be using the
7 official email address, but if they were going to even take
8 that position, you know, Omni will only assume that an attorney
9 represents an individual if the survivor indicated on their
10 proof of claim form that they are represented by counsel and
11 identified the counsel, or if the attorney provides an actual
12 engagement letter or written verification that that attorney
13 represents each and every individual that they purport to
14 represent. As we understand it that didn't happen here. So
15 that is issue one.

16 Issue two for why it was wrong and inappropriate is
17 they read the cover email that Mr. Kosnoff sent before they
18 sent it. That cover email clearly contains derogatory and
19 defamatory remarks about another attorney in this case. It is
20 wrong and inappropriate to utilize the official TCC email
21 address to make those remarks. It was, essentially, an
22 endorsement of those remarks. That was wrong and
23 inappropriate.

24 We also think it was wrong and inappropriate to use
25 an official TCC email address to point people to that twitter

1 feed. I don't look at twitter, you don't look at twitter, but
2 there are derogatory and defamatory statements about the court
3 and individuals involved in the case on twitter. We're not
4 trying to curtail Mr. Kosnoff's right to say what he wants to
5 say on twitter, but that should not be endorsed by an official
6 committee that was appointed by the United States Trustee in
7 this case.

8 Third, we believe that it was inappropriate to send
9 out something that does have false and misleading statements,
10 and I will come back to that in a moment, but at a minimum
11 there does not appear to be any evidence that the TCC reviewed
12 the letter that Mr. Kosnoff prepared and compared that letter
13 against the court approved disclosure statement or the TCC's
14 own communications which we spent five days reviewing.

15 Finally, Your Honor, we think it was wrong and
16 inappropriate because it simply wasn't a mistake. We supplied
17 the emails to the court that during the course of Saturday,
18 the day that the email communication went out, and it went out
19 on a rolling basis over the course, it appears, of several
20 hours. Mr. Molton reached out to the Pachulski Firm on at
21 least three occasions to say, guys, what are you doing. I am
22 getting this email. There are people getting this email that
23 are represented by other counsel and no action was taken until
24 Sunday to try to stop it. That just doesn't feel like a
25 mistake to us. We do think it was wrong and inappropriate.

1 As to the next point, Your Honor, again, just
2 simply asserting that parties in the bankruptcy case have
3 asserted Mr. Kosnoff's email and letter contained false,
4 misleading and inaccurate statements and that parties in the
5 case are saying the TCC shouldn't have done it we think the
6 court should say they shouldn't have done it, number one,
7 because they shouldn't have done it. Two, and this will come
8 out maybe more fully on Wednesday, but we have identified nine
9 problems, and these were in our motion, with the statements
10 made in Mr. Kosnoff's email.

11 In addition to the defamatory remarks, which I
12 think are, in fact, false, misleading and inaccurate
13 statements, and I think we can all agree to that, not just
14 parties in the case, but all of us can agree to that. In
15 addition to pointing to people to a twitter feed that contains
16 false, misleading and inaccurate statements there are seven
17 instances in the letter that Mr. Kosnoff sent that depart from
18 what the court approved in the disclosure statement and in the
19 TCC communication that is false, misleading and inaccurate.
20 It is not simply that parties in the case are saying it, the
21 email itself said it.

22 Your Honor, those are the two issues. Beyond that
23 I would like to acknowledge, Your Honor, that the parties work
24 very hard yesterday to come to ground on this form of
25 communication. I think when you look at the two forms of

1 letter they are actually substantially similar. So we are
2 only before you on a couple of discreet points, but those are
3 the points.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 MR. BUCHBINDER: Your Honor, this is Dave
6 Buchbinder. I hate to interrupt, but apparently some
7 documents have been submitted to the court and they haven't
8 been submitted to the U.S. Trustee. And I would like counsel
9 to send me copies of these letters immediately.

10 Thank you very much.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. Someone see that that is
12 done, please.

13 Mr. Molton.

14 MR. MOLTON: I hope you can hear me, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: I can.

16 MR. MOLTON: I am not going to repeat everything
17 that Ms. Lauria said. Be advised that we support all of her
18 points. I am going to just talk about what we consider to be
19 the differences and just add some further support for what Ms.
20 Lauria said.

21 Clearly the TCC wants to send out a letter with
22 court approval that characterizes what they did as an
23 unintended mistake against wrong and appropriate. Your Honor
24 heard Ms. Lauria and I think we all agree the coalition, Ms.
25 Lauria and other parties that you heard from a couple days ago

1 that notwithstanding that whether or not the TCC intended the
2 email only to go to Mr. Kosnoff's clients to utilize a
3 fiduciaries creditor survivor facing email platform to send
4 out an inflammatory and, yes, defamatory email to those
5 clients without anything suggesting that the email had been
6 vetted and suggesting actually by the absence of any
7 qualification whatsoever, and I'm not even saying a
8 qualification would make it right, but the absence of anything
9 suggested to the reader that the TCC was endorsing what was
10 said.

11 We think that that was wrong, wrong in and of
12 itself. We object to this letter trying to set the stage for
13 Wednesday's hearing in characterizing this as an unintended
14 mistake. Discovery is ongoing. We don't know whether it was
15 unintended or not. That still has to be decided. This letter
16 should not be used to put a thumb on the scale in connection
17 with that issue.

18 Ms. Boelter has stated why the Kosnoff email and
19 letter were misleading as opposed to be alleged to be
20 misleading. I think that that is not subject to discovery,
21 that is subject to taking a look at Your Honor's court
22 approved disclosures and comparing that to the letter.
23 Clearly what was contained in the letter was misleading.

24 Also, the proposed TCC email, Your Honor, is
25 absolutely silent as to what was contained in the Kosnoff

1 email and letter. I think what they say, and this is the one,
2 two, third paragraph on the proposed TCC email, three lines
3 down, we acknowledge that the email and letter contain
4 language directed against another lawyer and his law firm.
5 What fluff, what cotton candy, what milquetoast. That is not
6 an accurate depiction of what that email and corresponding
7 letter contained. It contained inflammatory, and defamatory
8 and prejudicial language against another lawyer in this case.

9 Again, this letter, which will be court approved,
10 should not sanction, meaning approve, characterizing that
11 language in such a misleading way because what the TCC letter
12 does is, in effect, characterize that language in an
13 inaccurate way. We think, you know, if it looks like a duck
14 and walks like a duck it should be called a duck. It's a
15 duck. Its inflammatory, it's defamatory.

16 Lastly, Your Honor, that goes to my final point, is
17 that, again, I viewed differences in the letter. We tried
18 very hard in our letter to be factual, purely factual; factual
19 and nothing else. We view the TCC's letter with respect to
20 the points that differ, and I think Ms. Boelter did a very
21 good job of articulating that and I have tried to emphasize
22 certain portions of that, as an attempt to preset, you know,
23 and put an imprimatur of approval by way of court approval of
24 this letter on the positions that, arguably or presumably,
25 they're going to take as we go forward.

1 We respectfully request that Your Honor not do that
2 and Your Honor put out an approved an appropriate email letter
3 from the TCC that is factual and isn't a preemptive litigation
4 piece.

5 Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 Ms. Grassgreen.

8 MS. GRASSGREEN: Good morning, Your Honor. Debra
9 Grassgreen of Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones on behalf of the
10 official tort claimants committee.

11 Your Honor, I want to just take you back to where
12 you started this hearing, I think the first words you said,
13 which today is a limited hearing. The point of today is not
14 to litigate the motion, that is for Wednesday. We haven't
15 even had an opportunity to fully respond to the motion. It's a
16 limited hearing about a communication that the parties have
17 asked that go out from the TCC, signed by the TCC.

18 So where I agree with Mr. Molton is that that
19 communication should not be any kind of finding of any of the
20 issues that you are going to determine on Wednesday. What
21 they are asking you to do does; it determines legal issues, it
22 determines factual issues and it's signed by our firm.

23 So what I would like to do is just step back a
24 little bit, give a little bit of context about what happened
25 because I think the context is really important here, Your

1 Honor, about the two groups. This is not about setting up
2 litigation strategy, this is about making sure that we are not
3 confusing survivors. I would just assume see a letter go out
4 that takes all of that out and is very basic. Then once you
5 have a hearing and you make your findings then those findings
6 can be transmitted, but you haven't done that yet. You
7 haven't had an opportunity to do that and we haven't had due
8 process on it.

9 Let me step back and give a little bit of context
10 because I have some real concerns about confusing survivors
11 further. So if I could.

12 Your Honor, two things happened last week that are
13 the subject of the motion. And I think we can't gloss over
14 them. I know Ms. Boelter just commented that there is a
15 difference in our letters where we're talking about the TCC
16 email list. I know we went through this with Mr. Stang. You
17 didn't have the benefit of the letter in front of you or
18 having read the motion when he made his comments last week,
19 earlier in the week. So I would just like to take a moment to
20 do that.

21 First -- two things happened. First, our firm sent
22 Mr. Kosnoff's letter with his cover email signed by him with a
23 red line that said communication from Kosnoff to the client
24 list that he provided, an email list that was actually
25 provided by one of the other of the three that represent this

1 group of clients. This letter and the cover email -- this
2 group of clients has three sets of lawyers already, three sets
3 of lawyers representing one client and they're getting
4 communications from those lawyers. Two of the law firms, as I
5 understand it, are saying vote yes, vote yes, vote yes and one
6 is saying vote no. That, in and of itself, is causing
7 confusion and I know that because I have been answering
8 questions that come on the town hall that --

9 THE COURT: That is their confusion. That is not
10 the committee's concern.

11 MS. GRASSGREEN: Absolutely, but I don't was to
12 exacerbate it, Your Honor. So if I could go through it. So
13 that letter and the covering email, the attached letter was
14 something that we understand they had already gotten, the
15 covering email they hadn't gotten. So one group of people got
16 a communication that included a letter saying vote no on the
17 plan. It wasn't approved by the court, but, Your Honor,
18 solicitations don't have to be approved post-disclosure
19 statement. They do have to be truthful, they do have to be
20 accurate, but they don't have to be approved once you approve
21 a disclosure statement. We're not all limited to the
22 boundaries of the disclosure statement. S that was one group.

23 There is a second group, which is what we call the
24 TCC email list, that is kind of a mish-mash email list that
25 our firm has just compiled over time of people that have

1 reached out to us. That list was a mistake. That was like on
2 a completely different scale, but that was like me hitting
3 reply all to an email that I didn't mean to send to someone.
4 That -- those are not clients of Mr. Kosnoff, maybe some of
5 them are. We are checking the list against each other, but
6 that was never intended. We are not walking back from that we
7 intended to do what we did which is send the cover email to
8 Mr. Kosnoff.

9 The reason why it's important is because if you
10 look at the language without you having determined that it was
11 false or misleading, and without you have determined that it
12 was defamatory, and Mr. Molton said this is just the facts,
13 well defamatory is not a fact, it's a legal conclusion. And,
14 you know, false and misleading has to be based on some sort
15 of, you know, evidentiary showing and that is the hearing that
16 we are having on Wednesday.

17 So what I am concerned about for the Kosnoff group,
18 let's take that group first, is what does it do to send to a
19 client something signed by our law firm that says your client
20 is giving -- your lawyer is giving you false information. I am
21 sending that to somebody else's client.

22 THE COURT: Well didn't you already do that when
23 you --

24 MS. GRASSGREEN: No, we didn't.

25 THE COURT: -- said that Rothweiler's information

1 was wrong.

2 MS. GRASSGREEN: We didn't because the cover email
3 was signed by Kosnoff.

4 THE COURT: Under the committee's --

5 MS. GRASSGREEN: It wasn't signed by --

6 THE COURT: -- email it was an endorsement. It had
7 to be an endorsement. It was nothing but an endorsement.
8 It's really super unfortunate here what has happened, but I do
9 agree that in my concern, quite frankly, is the court
10 imprimatur on something that, quite frankly, the TCC is going
11 to sign that doesn't pre-judge things and that doesn't force
12 the committee's counsel to further, perhaps, breach their
13 professional responsibilities and obligations. I am very
14 concerned about this.

15 What does Mr. Rothweiler want to go out? Has
16 anyone spoken with him because to me, I will tell you and what
17 I believe a concern that no one has yet expressed, but
18 concerns me, is that the clients -- Mr. Kosnoff's clients were
19 represented by three firms. The committee -- I don't know,
20 but I suspect the committee did not have permission from all
21 three firms to send a communication to their clients, their
22 collective clients.

23 MS. GRASSGREEN: No, Your Honor, we did not. We
24 had permission from Mr. Kosnoff and --

25 THE COURT: I find that problematic. I find that

1 problematic. There are three law firms that represent those
2 clients and you only had permission from one.

3 MS. GRASSGREEN: I understand that, Your Honor. I
4 will tell you we did it on advice of ethics counsel. We
5 previously (indiscernible) TCC notices.

6 THE COURT: That is really interesting that you
7 felt the need to get advice of ethics counsel for that. That
8 is very telling. And I will be interested in hearing that
9 advice that the committee got because I find that very
10 problematic especially because the committee knows that the
11 lawyers disagree. The lawyers disagree, the committee knows
12 it.

13 The committee turned a private attorney/client
14 communication that was not a solicitation into a solicitation
15 endorsed by the committee. The question is what do I do about
16 it that doesn't create more confusion, that doesn't prejudice
17 issues that are in front of me, but you can hear my very
18 strong preliminary thoughts?

19 How do I, because I have the preliminary thoughts I
20 have, permit a letter to go to clients, forget for the moment
21 the non-clients, but the clients in what I think could be a
22 breach of professional ethics?

23 MS. GRASSGREEN: Well, Your Honor, if I could, we
24 don't want to create more problems. We are really, really
25 working hard, and we did work hard with the parties, to try to

1 come to a consensus on this and I think there are two
2 competing things going on here, right, which you have just hit
3 the nail on the head.

4 One is we don't want to create more confusion and
5 we don't want to prejudge issues. So the other point that Mr.
6 Stang made is that an email has gone out to all of the
7 parties, right, saying this was sent to you in error. I
8 believe it went, and Mr. Lucas is on the phone I can confirm,
9 saying you shouldn't have gotten this email, we apologize.

10 It was initially our view that it be a very simple
11 letter. We apologize for any confusion, we weren't meaning to
12 endorse it, and leaving all the other issues to Wednesday. I
13 guess the question is should we wait until Wednesday to send
14 something and then whatever you rule --

15 THE COURT: I don't think we can. I think the more
16 time that passes the more potential there is for taint of the
17 vote that the committee has caused.

18 MS. GRASSGREEN: I mean the other alternative, Your
19 Honor, that I can suggest is that -- I mean for our firm to
20 sign something that this was defamatory when you haven't made
21 that ruling we're not comfortable with it, we don't think its
22 right to say it was inappropriate, false. You haven't made
23 those findings. I hear your preliminary comments.

24 THE COURT: Does the committee have a view?

25 MS. GRASSGREEN: Well we don't believe it was

1 defamatory as a legal matter, but we will brief it if it gets
2 raised.

3 THE COURT: No. I'm asking if the committee has a
4 view. The committee has now had time to think about this.
5 Does the committee have a view?

6 MS. GRASSGREEN: We -- I don't think everything in
7 -- I think Mr. Kosnoff's cover email was inflammatory. I do
8 not disagree with that, Your Honor. The letter -- many of the
9 points in the letter it was inconsistent with -- it was
10 perhaps inconsistent with disclosure, but I don't think there
11 is anything wrong with that. It's his view to his clients.
12 It's a letter he had already sent.

13 I don't necessarily, Your Honor, but my suggestion
14 that I think might help with this is that if other -- we used
15 the PSZJ email address to send the letter from Mr. Kosnoff.
16 We're happy to use that same email address and send the letter
17 that the debtor wants sent, if you tell us to do it, that they
18 signed from the same email address; same exact level of
19 implied endorsement. But for us to say it when you haven't
20 determined it yet and it hasn't been addressed is different.

21 I personally, in the discussions over the course of
22 the last day I thought that the two groups needed to be
23 treated differently, that it would be super confusing for
24 someone who is not a Kosnoff client to get something talking
25 about Kosnoff's clients, and his communications because

1 they're different. One was it was never meant for you, but
2 still we didn't endorse it, and here is how you fix it, and
3 here is all the other things that we agreed to say about it.

4 The other is, and clearly the language was
5 disrespectful -- Mr. Stang said it the other day and I'm going
6 to say it again, we do not endorse the twitter feed. We
7 didn't republish the twitter feed. That was in the debtors'
8 motion. None of us think that that is an appropriate
9 professional way to communicate. I certainly don't. Mr.
10 Stang doesn't. He has devoted endless years of his life to
11 doing this work and that is not the way that he communicates.

12 So I am just going to put that aside. But if the
13 alternative is so that the scales are exactly the way they
14 were we can use the PSZJ email address and if the debtor wants
15 to sign this and the coalition we will send it out. But, you
16 know, as you said there is a lot of pre-judgment here. It is
17 not purely factual. There are legal conclusions in this
18 letter and they have consequences.

19 THE COURT: I think we can say in the letter the
20 court will be having a hearing on whether or not the language
21 was false, misleading, inaccurate, defamatory, et cetera, that
22 will be an accurate statement.

23 MS. GRASSGREEN: That is accurate, Your Honor. We
24 have no problem with that.

25 I don't know, Your Honor, if you have the redline

1 in front of you, but I can pull it up on my share screen if
2 you want to look at the comparison language or we can use our
3 letter.

4 THE COURT: I found the redline to -- it's got too
5 much going on to be useful.

6 MS. GRASSGREEN: I mean one of the fundamental
7 questions is whether or not the group that isn't his clients
8 should get an email that says -- should get a letter that has
9 a lot of the same stock and the court's holding a hearing on
10 all of this. This wasn't meant for you, delete it, disregard
11 it, it wasn't meant for you. We are not walking back on the
12 fact that the other group it was meant for. And if that was
13 ill-advised or poor judgement we will address that with you on
14 Wednesday.

15 Again, we apologize for all the confusion that it
16 has caused, but we just don't want to exacerbate the problem.
17 These are survivors and, frankly, these legal nuances are not
18 going to be clear to them. They are absolutely not. There is
19 a wide range of understanding in this group. You know, many
20 of them are elderly and, you know, it's just going to create
21 even more if we're not simple, direct, we try to keep it to
22 one page. Parties did work hard together and, you know, this
23 was just really where we ended up at the point of contention.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 MS. GRASSGREEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Hogan.

2 MR. HOGAN: Good morning, Your Honor. Daniel Hogan
3 of Hogan McDaniel on behalf of Eisenberg, Rothweiler, Winkler,
4 Eisenberg & Jeck.

5 Your Honor, I will be brief. I will let the court
6 know that Mr. Rothweiler is attending the hearing listening in
7 and so he is aware of what is going on. He and his firm are,
8 obviously, sick about what has happened.

9 Your Honor, I agree with counsel that the context
10 is important and the context of this entire controversy
11 relates to, really, what is an ill-conceived attempt to
12 influence the vote. From the little I have seen, and I
13 haven't been involved in every bit of the discovery or any of
14 it, honestly, but it appears that this originated at the
15 Pachulski Stang Firm, this whole construct.

16 From our perspective it's problematic because,
17 number one, it impacts the voting process at a critical
18 juncture. It damages the integrity of the ongoing mediation
19 process which is important to the hopeful resolution of this
20 case and equally important to both Eisenberg, Rothweiler, and
21 Ken Rothweiler personally. These statements are clearly
22 detrimental to their reputation.

23 So they have got a great concern about what is
24 contained in the letter and how it's perceived by people. The
25 perception in these cases is important particularly for the

1 survivors. And so we ask that our version, the debtors'
2 version of the letter be approved.

3 Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Hogan, from that I take it that Mr.
5 Rothweiler is okay with a communication coming from the
6 official committee email to his clients, at least, at this
7 point if it's the debtors' letter.

8 MR. HOGAN: Yes, Your Honor, that's correct. If
9 it's the debtors' letter. Obviously, without any endorsement
10 of the first letter that went out over the weekend, which it
11 had no knowledge of, and which, obviously, it was detrimental
12 to their interests.

13 THE COURT: Do you also represent AVA law firm or
14 does somebody else represent them? I don't remember. Are they
15 represented?

16 MR. HOGAN: Your Honor, Joe Grey of Cross & Simon
17 now represents AVA Law. Dave Wilkes had originally
18 represented both AVA Law and Mr. Kosnoff, but now they are
19 represented by Cross & Simon.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 Mr. Grey, are you on the -- at the hearing,
22 attending the hearing?

23 (No verbal response)

24 THE COURT: Anyone from Cross & Simon?

25 (No verbal response)

1 THE COURT: I don't hear anyone.

2 Mr. Brady.

3 MR. BRADY: Thank you, Your Honor. Robert Brady
4 for the FCR.

5 I won't belabor the record, Your Honor, but we do
6 find this a very troubling situation and we're still reviewing
7 the discovery responses that came in last night. But for all
8 the reasons you've heard today, the FCR supports the debtors'
9 version of the letter as the more appropriate response to this
10 issue.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Molton and then I'll go to
12 Ms. Lauria.

13 MR. MOLTON: Yeah, Judge, I'm going to be very
14 brief. I just want to note that I did receive -- this
15 morning, the TCC had a town hall last night, their normal
16 Thursday town hall. The issue of confusion is manifest, Your
17 Honor, and critical.

18 My understanding is there was a question about this
19 letter raised during that town hall. That's what I
20 understand, and I've had a busy morning, so just am telling
21 you what I understand to be the facts on the ground. And,
22 accordingly, it's imperative, Your Honor, that this remedy get
23 out as soon as possible. And it's not a distinction between
24 those it was intended to and not.

25 The TCC has to disavow themselves from what was,

1 clearly, as Your Honor suggested, an endorsement of
2 Mr. Kosnoff's letter and email. They've got to do that to
3 everybody. They have to distance themselves and acknowledge
4 what I think counsel for the TCC acknowledged was, it's not
5 defamatory -- she wouldn't use that term -- but inflammatory
6 language. And this has got to get out soon.

7 I hear that Mr. Rothweiler's counsel has consented
8 to that. Needless to say, they may be asking for other
9 remedies next week.

10 But, clearly, the most immediate need is for a
11 remedial email, clearly, unequivocally to the point that does
12 all the things that I think Ms. Lauria mentioned, that I've
13 already stated, and that is within the debtor-proposed letter,
14 that every other party that you've heard from on this, other
15 the TCC, support.

16 Thank you, Judge.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 Ms. Lauria?

19 MS. LAURIA: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 Again, Jessica Lauria, White & Case, on behalf of
21 the debtors. I'll be brief, because I think Mr. Molton
22 actually addressed my point.

23 We think there should only be one letter and that
24 one letter should come from the TCC and it should go to all of
25 the individuals that received the initial communication. That

1 is the appropriate remedial relief at this point in this
2 proceeding before we get to Wednesday. That letter is not an
3 attorney-client communication between Rothweiler and the
4 clients or Mr. Kosnoff and the clients; it's an official
5 communication from the TCC, from their official email address
6 conveying the message in the letter that we submitted to the
7 Court.

8 Thank you, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 Ms. Grassgreen?

11 (No verbal response)

12 THE COURT: You're muted, Ms. Grassgreen.

13 MS. GRASSGREEN: Thank you. I'm sorry, Your Honor.
14 It's still early here on the West Coast.

15 Your Honor, just briefly, we did absolutely say in
16 the letter and we -- and wanted to (indiscernible) up front
17 and we're happy to move that up front that the forwarding --
18 the distribution of the letter was not an endorsement by the
19 TCC of the contents of those documents. I think that is the
20 point that we just heard Mr. Molton say. That's the point
21 that you brought up. And I think that is the central point.

22 The other conclusions that are going to be for
23 another day -- and, again, we've heard your preliminary views
24 on it and we know what we're facing -- that's different to
25 raise those issues. And we're not suggesting that anyone get

1 two letters, right; we're just suggesting that the clients of
2 Mr. Kosnoff's letter might be tailored a little different than
3 the non-clients because for them, it was never -- I'm a little
4 uncomfortable telling a client of a lawyer to delete a
5 communication from their lawyer, right, without -- if you tell
6 us to do it, we'll do it, but it made me a little
7 uncomfortable, which is why I was thinking, as I was thinking,
8 (indiscernible) from the survivors' standpoint, that everybody
9 should get one letter.

10 And I've asked our office to do the work, to
11 compare the two lists and make sure there's not anybody on
12 both so we don't get people getting multiple communications.
13 And so, that is being done right now and will be done before
14 any communication goes out.

15 But, you know, somebody who's his client is
16 different than somebody who is not his client.

17 THE COURT: The communication came from the
18 Committee, not from him. So, you're asking them to delete
19 your communication. I'm not sure how different that is than
20 sending a communication in the first instance.

21 MS. GRASSGREEN: Well, it was forwarded from our
22 email address, but it was not signed by us or purported to be
23 signed by us.

24 THE COURT: And what does that mean to you? What
25 does that mean to you, that it was forwarded from your email,

1 but it wasn't signed by us, what does that mean to you?

2 MS. GRASSGREEN: Well, the re line said, see
3 attached communication from Kosnoff, right; it didn't say --
4 so, it was a transmission and I think there's a difference
5 between us transmitting someone else's statement. If one says
6 to me, would you forward the email that so and so sent you,
7 doesn't mean that I've adopted or endorsed what's in the
8 email; it means that I've forwarded it.

9 THE COURT: And what does that mean?

10 That's sort of like the people who say, oh, I
11 didn't view the whole tweet to see what it says; I just re-
12 tweeted it.

13 MS. GRASSGREEN: Well, I -- your question was, is
14 it our communication and we don't think it was.

15 THE COURT: I guess I would -- you should be
16 prepared --

17 MS. GRASSGREEN: A consequence of us forwarding it
18 are clear -- are becoming clearer and, again -- but that's for
19 Wednesday. And if there's needs to be an order saying, we did
20 all these wrong things -- we're not asking you to find that it
21 was not false today. We're not asking you to find that it was
22 not misleading. We are not asking you to find that it was not
23 defamatory.

24 But we're not asking you to find that it -- they're
25 asking you to say that it is by asking us to admit it and

1 something signed by our firm. So, you know, and until you've
2 done that, it's going to create more confusion for the
3 survivors. So, I think the appropriate communication is we
4 didn't endorse it. We're sorry for the confusion. Here's how
5 you fixed it. We do not support the personal comments. Mr.
6 Rothweiler deserves to be treated with respect to.

7 All of that is there, Your Honor. I think the only
8 points of contention are -- and we apologized. That's all
9 there, everything. It was their initial words and we've
10 adopted it. I think the points of contention are the
11 statements: it's false; it's misleading; we shouldn't have
12 done it; it's defamatory.

13 You know, I don't mind saying that the letter
14 contains inflammatory language. That's fine. I'm happy --
15 you can add that back in. But it is the other language that
16 is troubling.

17 And, you know, I think your suggestion the Court is
18 going to consider at a hearing whether it's false or
19 misleading is fine. I mean, we put the language in that that
20 was the debtors' position because we were trying to make sure
21 that their views were provided, that it wasn't one-sided.

22 So, you know, I think that is where we are.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 Mr. Goldfarb?

25 MR. GOLDFARB: Good morning, Your Honor.

1 Andrew Goldfarb of the Zuckerman Spaeder firm. We
2 represent about 1800 survivor claimants in the bankruptcy.
3 I'm at a little bit of a disadvantage because I haven't seen
4 the dueling letters that were submitted to Your Honor this
5 morning.

6 Our firm is a little bit, has been sort of
7 particularly beset by unauthorized communications. Omni, the
8 BSA sent out direct ballots to all of our claimants in late
9 October, notwithstanding the fact that we had selected the
10 master ballot option, then there were these unauthorized
11 emails.

12 We have been communicating and had to communicate
13 several times with our clients to try to contain the situation
14 and we've tried to be transparent and tried to be clear to
15 maintain the integrity of the voting process and to make sure
16 that our clients understand what is going on and minimize
17 confusion. We have gotten lots of contact from clients about,
18 both about the Omni direct ballots that were sent, as well as
19 the recent emails from last weekend.

20
21 And so, we have tried to respond responsibly to all
22 of these unauthorized communications we've received. I don't
23 know the contents of what's before Your Honor in terms of
24 being sent out in the near term, but we did have some
25 substantial concerns about the proposal that was in the BSA's

1 corrective email, in their motion, and so I just don't know if
2 a lot of that content has gone out and it's a much cleaner
3 letter, then I might not have concerns about it, but I just
4 don't know what the contents are.

5 THE COURT: Mr. Goldfarb, two questions. One,
6 what's your concern, and, two -- because I would like to hear
7 it -- and, two, would you like the option of whether a further
8 email goes to your clients or not?

9 MR. GOLDFARB: From our perspective, yes. I mean,
10 we have -- in addition, Your Honor, we had, you know, we had
11 several hundred, probably almost half of our clients had voted
12 before the email went out, and so to the extent that there's,
13 you know, sort of overlap between what went to our clients and
14 those who had already voted, I don't -- again, there were
15 suggestions in the BSA's email communication about re-voting
16 and if you want to change your vote. Like, that should not go
17 to clients of ours who voted, you know, so consistent with the
18 information we sent to them and our recommendations and, you
19 know, had fully considered in advance. So, we have problems
20 with those types of, some of those types of suggestions.

21 And so, whatever goes should be tailored. There
22 were -- you know, we were not comfortable with the statement
23 in the BSA's proposed email that's in the motion referring to
24 the number of law firms or whose clients support the plan and
25 are urging support of the plan, because that, in our view,

1 changes the focus on the voting claimants to the lawyers and
2 we didn't think that was appropriate because it could, in our
3 view, it could at any time the way our clients perceive the
4 course of the bankruptcy and whether it is advantageous or
5 disadvantageous for them to vote a certain way.

6 And you know, we also, because we have already
7 supplied the solicitation materials, including all of the
8 letters, we don't think that those need to be resent and we
9 didn't think that that was an appropriate suggested remedy either.

10 Coming back to Your Honor's basic question, yes, we
11 would prefer to regain control over the communications that we
12 have with our clients and we feel like our clients, in
13 particular, have been subject to unauthorized communications
14 from, you know, sort of going in both directions and it is
15 just creating a morass. They are caught in the middle of an
16 unfortunate situation and we continue to have a concern that
17 additional communications is not consistent with the way that
18 we want to represent our clients and we continue to have
19 concern and frustration over having lost the ability to
20 communicate clearly and in a way that we think is most
21 appropriate for our clients, so thank you.

22 THE COURT: Thank you. Very helpful.

23 Ms. Grassgreen, has committee counsel, has
24 Pachulski made any efforts to reach out to counsel who
25 represent recipients of the emails to ask them what they want,

1 whether they want further communications or not? What
2 communications has Pachulski had with counsel for represented
3 recipients?

4 MS. GRASSGREEN: Your Honor, for that, I think I
5 need to pass it over to Mr. Stang. I will say my
6 understanding is that a number of folks, such as Mr. Goldfarb,
7 such as lawyers representing, I think, others that are on the
8 phone have reached out to us. And I know we have taken those
9 inbound communications, but whether we have affirmatively
10 reached out to others, beyond the initial outreach that Mr.
11 Stang made right when asked to by Mr. Molton to say that it
12 had gone out in error, I don't know. So, if you don't mind, I
13 could ask that Mr. Stang respond to that.

14 THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Stang?

15 MR. STANG: Good morning.

16 THE COURT: Good morning.

17 MR. STANG: Thank you, good morning, Your Honor.

18 I do not believe that the firm has initiated any
19 communications with any counsel or survivors, other than the
20 email that was sent out that went out on Sunday. And because
21 of the volume of emails, Your Honor, we push a "send" button,
22 but it goes out in batches. We don't send it in batches, in a
23 sense of pushing the button, the go-button more than once, but
24 the technology does not instantly and simultaneously send them
25 all out.

1 So, Mr. Goldfarb contacted Mr. Lucas, who's on the
2 call -- he's one of our partners -- they discussed the fact
3 that this communication had gone out. Mr. Goldfarb asked us
4 to remove his clients from what I'd refer to as the "TCC
5 list." I don't know if we have yet identified all of
6 Mr. Goldfarb's clients from the TCC list, but that was, to the
7 best of my knowledge, the only communication that we've had;
8 we didn't initiate anything.

9 And in terms of the material, the lawyer
10 representing the material number of people, because I don't
11 know every single communication that Mr. Lucas may have
12 received, we did hear from Mr. Goldfarb. I also -- I'm sorry,
13 Your Honor, one other.

14 Paul Mones, who is an attorney who represents a
15 committee member, contacted me on Sunday, I believe it was
16 Sunday morning, which is how I came to the full realization of
17 what had happened and he told me that a couple of his clients
18 had received the emails and asked me, what's going on?

19 So, those are the two that I am aware of.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 Okay. Ms. Lauria?

22 MR. STANG: Your Honor, may I say one other thing,
23 please?

24 THE COURT: Yes.

25 MR. STANG: I heard Mr. Goldfarb's comments about

1 his view of what the debtor had proposed in the order, which,
2 obviously, is on the docket (indiscernible). Our letter, and
3 I believe the letter from the debtor, does make reference to
4 changing a vote. We were trying to accommodate as much as we
5 could what the debtor was saying, but I also hear what Mr.
6 Goldfarb is saying.

7 I can tell you that I am -- we get voting reports
8 from the debtor, as do other parties in the case. There have
9 been votes submitted. We're waiting for a report today, but
10 my understanding is from the last voting report, about 1200
11 votes had come into Omni. And I think that lags a week for
12 the report, so it wasn't as of the date of the report. So,
13 there's votes coming in.

14 And the reference to attorneys representing a
15 majority of the survivors urging clients to vote yes, I think
16 that's true. I mean, based on the communications I have seen
17 both, those filed in the court -- obviously, the Coalition
18 supports the fifth amended plan -- but also, and I made
19 reference to this when I spoke to you last, there are dueling
20 videos out there. One of those videos is from
21 Mr. Rothweiler. One of those videos is from our committee co-
22 chairs, Mr. Hump Humphrey and Mr. Kennedy. Theirs came after
23 Mr. Rothweiler's.

24 And just as an aside, Your Honor -- you know what?
25 I'm not going to go there.

1 So, we do think that the majority of the attorneys
2 representing an overwhelming majority of the survivors are
3 supporting the plan, but I also hear Mr. Goldfarb's concern,
4 because he's not going to tell us what his recommendation was,
5 and he shouldn't, that, you know, that his clients may say,
6 Wow, if everyone else -- if an overwhelming majority of people
7 are doing it and supporting it, maybe we should. And so I
8 understand his concerns that wanted you to know where this
9 language came from in terms of the letter that we were
10 proposing.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 MS. LAURIA: Your Honor, this is Jessica Lauria, if
13 I just may respond briefly?

14 And I understand Mr. Goldfarb did not have the
15 letter in front of him that was submitted to the Court this
16 morning. The language in the letter pertaining to changing
17 the votes, it now actually, I believe, says, "Please consult
18 with your counsel if you wish to change your vote."

19 I think that's very important. We understand that
20 there are a number of parties that would have already advised
21 their client on how to vote.

22 But I do think that his remarks really put a fine
23 point on why this communication that the TCC sent out over the
24 last weekend -- and I know that we're not here on the broader
25 point -- was so problematic to begin with. And I think you'll

1 hear from Mr. Molton that there are a number of state court
2 counsel affiliated with the Coalition, including, my guess is
3 Mr. Rothweiler, that very much disagree with the
4 recommendation from Mr. Kosnoff that was sent by the TCC and
5 the statements therewith, and we are trying to remedy those,
6 as well.

7 I would also just say that I wasn't aware that Mr.
8 Goldfarb had asked his clients to be backed out of that TCC
9 list served and, obviously, subject to guidance from the
10 Court, we will honor whatever the Court would like us to do in
11 terms of who any communications should go to, but we take Mr.
12 Goldfarb's point in that regard.

13 Your Honor, I guess my final point is -- and I
14 don't think it's an issue for today -- but there were multiple
15 references in Mr. Goldfarb's statements to "inappropriate
16 communications" from BSA and Omni to his clients. We disagree
17 with that. We filed at docket notice 6821, Omni,
18 inadvertently sent direct ballots to the clients of three law
19 firms that had elected the master ballot. We worked with
20 those three law firms in terms of whatever remedy they wanted,
21 we were willing to do, and I think we've resolved all of those
22 issues, as reflected in Docket Number 6821.

23 Thank you, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 MR. MOLTON: Your Honor, if I could just add a few

1 points to conclude?

2 THE COURT: Mr. Molton?

3 MR. MOLTON: Thank you, Judge.

4 First of all, I just want to make sure Your Honor
5 understands that not just the Coalition supports the debtor
6 letter, but I can affirmatively say that all the Coalition-
7 affiliated law firms, which represents, as Your Honor knows,
8 approximately 60,000-plus unique proof of claim survivors,
9 supports the debtors' letter. I think the debtor has
10 accurately accepted the language and has agreed to put in its
11 letter regarding that an overwhelming majority of the --
12 attorneys representing an overwhelming majority of the
13 survivors in these cases support the plan and are urging their
14 clients to vote yes on the plan. We didn't think that, in
15 light of their agreement, that that was an issue. That's a
16 fact.

17 Second of all, Your Honor, I just want to reiterate
18 something that Ms. Lauria mentioned earlier. There are
19 important mediations next week; accordingly, why discovery on
20 this matter is going forward. We will be mediating in New
21 York, you know, regarding very important issues with important
22 remaining unsettled insurers and chartered organizations.
23 And, accordingly, getting a remedy out to the survivors
24 forthwith, as I like to say, is crucial.

25 Lastly, one of the things that is going to be

1 clearly a subject of discovery next week is did the Committee,
2 itself, authorize this or was this just the Committee's
3 counsel?

4 I note that we have the two co-chairs on the Zoom
5 screen here, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Humphrey. That is going to
6 be an important subject of the discovery that's going to go
7 forward over the weekend, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Stang, I see your hand.

9 MR. STANG: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 I was going to say that it's clear from this
11 hearing that within a certain -- within the AIS, Abused in
12 Scouting client base, they are getting conflicting messages.
13 And it's not the message -- and as to conflict, these
14 conflicting messages were communicated to them long before,
15 and regularly, before our email went out, starting on last
16 Friday.

17 Mr. Kosnoff has, for a long time, opposed the
18 recommendations that his two other co-counsel have submitted.
19 I just want to --

20 THE COURT: Right. So, why did you weigh in? So,
21 why did you weigh in between that conflicting view that was
22 happening among co-counsel or affiliated counsel or a movement
23 or whatever they want to call themselves?

24 MR. STANG: Your Honor, we --

25 THE COURT: You're not making it better. This

1 doesn't give me -- I understand fully what's going on.

2 MR. STANG: Okay. Well, you asked me a question.
3 I'll answer it.

4 The Committee opposes confirmation of the plan.

5 THE COURT: Uh-huh. I understand that, too.

6 MR. STANG: Well, and the Committee regularly
7 communicates that to its constituency, including through these
8 town halls.

9 You asked me a question and I wanted you to know
10 that we agree with Mr. Kosnoff on that principle. You know,
11 we don't agree with what he says in the Twitter account. I
12 said that last -- earlier, and I reiterate it.

13 But I just wanted you to -- since we're talking
14 about confusion, I wanted you to know that the messages that
15 these folks, these AIS clients are getting --

16 THE COURT: Why do you think I don't know that? Do
17 you think I'm sleeping during the hearings?

18 MR. STANG: No, Your Honor, I don't think
19 you're --

20 THE COURT: Why do you think I don't know that?

21 MR. STANG: Well, because there is -- well, Your
22 Honor, then I take back what I just said to you as
23 unnecessary.

24 THE COURT: Yeah. It's been quite clear for some
25 time that that's the case.

1 MR. STANG: Okay.

2 THE COURT: Quite clear. Okay.

3 MS. GRASSGREEN: Your Honor, could I suggest maybe
4 we look at the text of the letter; would that be a productive
5 way to proceed at this point?

6 THE COURT: I'm looking at the text of the letters.
7 I've been thinking about the text of the letters. Yes, Ms.
8 Grassgreen, I think that is the most important thing.

9 But I also hear that Mr. Goldfarb does not want a
10 communication with his client. He thinks that's further
11 confusing for his clients and, therefore, I think his clients
12 need to be taken off any communications. I would also like
13 the Committee today, forthwith, to communicate with counsel or
14 other represented recipients to find out whether they want a
15 further communication to their client or not, and those
16 requests need to be honored.

17 I said at the beginning or somewhere near the
18 beginning that I am concerned with communications to
19 represented parties. I am concerned to unrepresented, too. I
20 don't know quite what to do with that, but I am concerned with
21 communications to represented parties who have their own
22 counsel who should be communicating with them and may be
23 trying, themselves, to clear up the confusion, and another
24 email may just be more confusion.

25 So, the Committee, today, forthwith, is to figure

1 out who on their list is represented by counsel and reach out
2 to them to find out what they want.

3 MS. GRASSGREEN: Absolutely, Your Honor.

4 MR. STANG: Your Honor, just to make --

5 MS. GRASSGREEN: Absolutely. Mr. Stang --
6 absolutely, Your Honor. We will take care of it. I'm
7 actually going to ask --

8 MR. STANG: Your Honor, no -- this is a fact that
9 Ms. Grassgreen isn't aware of. Mr. Goldfarb's firm, at one
10 time, was parking lot of AIS and I would appreciate if he
11 could communicate to us because the Coalition, or AIS -- AIS,
12 I'm sorry -- AIS may ultimately say to us, send out the -- or
13 you will say, send out the letter that includes AIS people,
14 but Mr. Goldfarb's client --

15 THE COURT: AIS isn't going to say that. As you
16 pointed out, they're not going to agree.

17 MR. STANG: Okay. Well, anyway, I just wanted to
18 alert you to the fact that Mr. Goldfarb has some of his own
19 clients and some of his clients are part of AIS; that's all I
20 wanted to tell you. And we'll have to work that out with
21 Mr. Goldfarb, I guess.

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MR. STANG: I'm sorry, I know Ms. Grassgreen
24 doesn't want me to handle this hearing, and I didn't want to,
25 but there are some additional things that I know because of

1 the history that she doesn't know.

2 MS. GRASSGREEN: I apologize for cutting him off,
3 Your Honor, and double-attempting you.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MS. GRASSGREEN: We're trying to keep -- the reason
6 why I'm here, Your Honor, is we're trying to be as objective
7 as possible. I wasn't involved so I don't have the same
8 personal stake, although, I have a personal interest, so it's
9 different. So, we were just trying to keep it at that level
10 of, what do we do now? Let's be constructive in a very --

11 THE COURT: I understood --

12 MS. GRASSGREEN: -- (indiscernible) situation.

13 THE COURT: I understood that even without your
14 saying that.

15 MS. GRASSGREEN: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: The letter. So, I think my reaction
17 when I read the two letters, and, actually, I was informed --
18 what I was informed of was who wrote what -- which one -- I
19 said, No, that can't be. So, but my overall impression was
20 they're not that different and Ms. Lauria has pointed out, I
21 think, the two areas where there is some difference and that
22 is the use of the words "mistake" versus "wrong" and
23 "inappropriate"; quite frankly, maybe from what I'm hearing,
24 it was all three.

25 I am troubled -- well, these are my preliminary

1 views about whether it was wrong or inappropriate, but this is
2 coming under the signature from Pachulski Stang, not from me,
3 and I'm not sure, quite frankly, that the nuance of the
4 different between "mistake," "wrong," and "inappropriate" is
5 going to be an issue for people reading this letter.

6 It is not going to prejudge what I determine on
7 Wednesday. Nobody has to worry about that. I'm not going to
8 make the Committee counsel use words that they disagree with
9 in their letter. So, I'm going to -- I'm not going to make
10 them change it.

11 And as for the statement about Mr. Kosnoff's letter
12 containing false, misleading, and inaccurate statements,
13 inconsistent with the Court-approved disclosure statement, I
14 think we ought to say that the Court will be having a hearing
15 on whether -- I think that's factual. It doesn't prejudge the
16 contents of the letter, and we'll deal with it.

17 Again, maybe even saying the Court is having a
18 hearing on it is a stronger statement than somebody's view,
19 but I think it's accurate. Ms. Grassgreen has already
20 indicated that she would state that statements in the, I
21 believe in the email were inflammatory and I will let her add
22 that to the letter.

23 I hear Mr. Goldfarb's concern about people changing
24 votes and causing more confusion. I do think, however, that
25 probably needs to go out in the letter, and that was in both

1 of the letters. I think the "you should contact your
2 attorney" needs to be bolded and emphasized and maybe in caps,
3 if you have one.

4 And the sentence that says in the second-to-last
5 paragraph, "If you have questions to vote on the plan, we
6 strongly encourage you to seek advice from your attorney," I
7 want that bolded, as well. It actually seems to be maybe a
8 little duplicative there in that sentence, but -- that
9 paragraph.

10 MS. GRASSGREEN: Your Honor, I think it is in both
11 letters (indiscernible), at least in the redline that I'm
12 looking at. So, we will bold it and we will say it once,
13 unless you would like us to say it --

14 THE COURT: I think say it once --

15 MS. GRASSGREEN: The attorney, "reach out to your
16 attorney," we could also say that right up front in bold, if
17 you'd like.

18 THE COURT: Let's say it once and, also, let's
19 emphasize that we are not trying to interfere with the advice
20 that you may be receiving from your own attorney, if
21 represented.

22 MS. GRASSGREEN: Okay. We'll do that, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: I would also like Committee counsel, or
24 this may be -- Mr. Hogan, you could reach out to Mr. Gray to
25 let him know how the communications we've had and Ms.

1 Grassgreen and her group are going to be busy today. Mr.
2 Hogan, maybe you can reach out to Mr. Gray and see if he has
3 an issue with the communication going to the joint clients.

4 MR. HOGAN: Your Honor, I'd be glad to do that. I
5 would ask that the debtor send me both versions of the letter
6 so that I have the most current version when I send those to
7 Mr. Gray, and I'd be happy to that.

8 THE COURT: Well, hopefully, we're going to come up
9 with one here, but yes.

10 MR. HOGAN: You would -- yeah, thank you.

11 THE COURT: Yes, thank you.

12 Okay. Let me ask if there are questions. I think
13 I've covered and given guidance on what needs to happen here
14 so we can --

15 MR. PATTERSON: Your Honor -- one question, Your
16 Honor?

17 THE COURT: I'm sorry. Mr. Patterson?

18 MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Your Honor. One question, if
19 I might -- thank you, Your Honor. I know there's -- I don't
20 know where I was in the queue, but I sort of lost touch with
21 this issue, but I know Your Honor said in response to one
22 counsel that if state court counsel do not want a further
23 communication to go to their clients, we can make a
24 communication to TCC counsel and instruct them as to that?

25 THE COURT: Yes.

1 MR. PATTERSON: And will that also be in the
2 Court's order today or is this just an informal bench order
3 that is going with to approve the form of letter?

4 THE COURT: Yeah, you know, this whole approval of
5 the form of letter is really interesting. It's something now
6 that I've been thinking about, why people want it, why courts
7 give it, why it's appropriate or not.

8 But I'm viewing today as permitting a letter to go
9 out. I'm not micromanaging every word in this letter. I am
10 letting you know I am making balls-and-strikes calls on a
11 couple of issues that I think are really important.

12 As I said, I'm not going to force the Committee to
13 sign a letter that is not their view. So, in terms of
14 approving it, I don't know exactly what that is, to be honest.

15 MR. PATTERSON: I guess that's authorizing it, Your
16 Honor.

17 THE COURT: I'm permitting it to happen. I'm
18 authorizing it. I'm not approving every word of it. It's a
19 remedial situation I'm finding myself in, but absolutely I've
20 given clear directive and to the extent there needs to be
21 order from the bench, so ordered that Committee is to reach
22 out to counsel who have clients who are -- were recipients of
23 their previous email and if those counsel do not want their
24 clients to receive anything else, they should not receive
25 anything else.

1 MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 MS. GRASSGREEN: Your Honor, with respect to that
4 direction, I just want to clarify that that applies other than
5 the Kosnoff list, right, because, certainly, we don't want a
6 situation where Mr. Kosnoff says, no, I don't want it going to
7 my clients and Mr. Rothweiler says, I want it going to my
8 clients, and it's the same people and now we have problems.
9 So, I think you mean that with respect to the TCC email list,
10 the non-AIS clients, but I'd like to confirm because it's a
11 complex issue.

12 THE COURT: Yes, I will overrule any objection Mr.
13 Kosnoff has to this going to AIS clients, which is why I asked
14 what Mr. Rothweiler wanted and why I asked Mr. Hogan to reach
15 out to Mr. Grey. If AVA Law firm doesn't want that to happen,
16 then people are going to have to get me back on the phone and
17 we'll have a hearing.

18 MS. GRASSGREEN: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor. I
19 just wanted to clarify because there's some overlap. And,
20 unfortunately, we've gotten some communications from people
21 that say I was with Abused in Scouting and I'm not anymore and
22 now I'm with someone else. And we'll work through those
23 issues as best as we can, that's all I can commit -- I'll
24 commit to do that with every resource we have, but there are a
25 lot of very complicated issues around the counsel

1 representation in this case, unfortunately, but we will put
2 everything we have into it to try to do it as carefully and
3 appropriately as possible.

4 If we're done with the letter, I thought that
5 perhaps, given everything that's going on next week, we should
6 talk about what the expectation is for Wednesday in light of
7 this and --

8 MR. MOLTON: Your Honor, can I ask for
9 clarification? I'm sorry to interrupt counsel, but before we
10 leave the subject I've got a few questions and clarifications
11 that I'm going to -- okay, thank you.

12 Number one, I know that you've allowed the TCC
13 counsel to communicate with counsel other than Mr. -- the AIS
14 counsel, asking them whether they should receive further
15 communication. I just want to be clear, Your Honor, that,
16 from my perspective, it can't be that milk toast. It's got to
17 be advising them what happened, advising them of the hearing
18 today, advising them that the TCC is going to be sending out
19 the letter that we're coming to terms on, giving them an
20 ability to read that letter, and then asking if they want that
21 letter sent to their clients.

22 As I said, from the Coalition's perspective, we
23 understand that every one of our law firms will agree to that
24 under the circumstances of how the letter is being composed
25 right now.

1 Number two -- so I think that needs to be --

2 THE COURT: So, yes, let me -- let's stop there.

3 Yes, I expect there to be a fulsome communication and, yes, I
4 think it would be appropriate and probably necessary to send
5 the letter, so counsel can see it and make a decision.

6 MR. MOLTON: Yes. Thank you.

7 MS. GRASSGREEN: Your Honor, we don't disagree with
8 that at all.

9 MR. MOLTON: Second of all --

10 MS. GRASSGREEN: We (indiscernible) --

11 MR. MOLTON: -- Judge, we would -- we think it
12 would be --

13 MS. GRASSGREEN: -- (indiscernible) --

14 MR. MOLTON: I'm sorry.

15 MS. GRASSGREEN: It's okay.

16 MR. MOLTON: Number two, Judge, we think it would
17 be helpful, if not essential, that the TCC produce and file a
18 declaration or affidavit stating all of the attorneys they
19 contacted, who they were, and what the answer was accordingly,
20 so that we all can -- so there's transparency to that process
21 on this very, very important topic. So I would ask that as
22 well, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Ms. Grassgreen, do you see an issue
24 with that?

25 MS. GRASSGREEN: No issue, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 MR. MOLTON: Okay. Lastly, Judge, we have the
3 issue that we raised, I think, two days ago -- and, again,
4 it's confounding -- is we have no idea, you know, how many --
5 who forwarded the Kosnoff, you know, missive sent by the TCC
6 over its forward-looking -- creditor forward-looking email to
7 other survivors. And I don't have a solution to that, Judge;
8 there may not be a solution to that. The letter itself tries
9 to some extent address that. But, from my perspective, that's
10 an important point that should not be lost as we go forward
11 into next week, looking at the conduct that happened, how it
12 happened, and the confusion and taint that it's caused.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. MOLTON: Thank you.

15 THE COURT: I don't think that requires a response.
16 Ms. Lauria?

17 MS. LAURIA: Thank you, Your Honor. I believe Ms.
18 Grassgreen was about to go to logistics for next week and I
19 did want to address that from the debtors' perspective as
20 well.

21 I see Mr. Schiavoni maybe would like to be heard.
22 I don't know if you want me to go forward with logistics or
23 hear from Mr. Schiavoni first.

24 THE COURT: Is Mr. Schiavoni --

25 MS. LAURIA: I'll go ahead -- oh, okay.

1 THE COURT: -- yeah, we lost him.

2 (Pause)

3 MR. SCHIAVONI: I'm sorry, is Mr. Lauria --

4 THE COURT: Oh, there you are.

5 MR. SCHIAVONI: -- going to go forward? I'm fine -

6 -

7 THE COURT: I just lost you and everything shifted.
8 Okay, Mr. Schiavoni.

9 MR. SCHIAVONI: Oh, Your Honor, we have an
10 application, a motion before Your Honor to depose Mr. Kosnoff,
11 who's under subpoena, has been served, and who has taken the
12 position he's not subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. I
13 think that deposition is going to take place eventually no
14 matter what, but if it's going to take place, it just seems to
15 me it makes a huge amount of sense for it to take place
16 Monday/Tuesday or, in any event, before the hearing.

17 If you have a hearing on Wednesday about this
18 event, not having the deposition of Mr. Kosnoff, it's sort of
19 like having like a Shakespeare play without Shakespeare. I
20 mean, he's at the center of this, the center of the issues
21 about it, and, you know, his -- the issues about this AIS, how
22 it's -- and the various issues that swirl around it and who
23 he's communicated with here, it all is relevant to the
24 hearing. This should take place at some point no matter what.
25 There's a host of 100-percent purely factual issues.

1 You know, we don't want to depose Mr. Kosnoff about
2 his communications with his clients or his opinions or things
3 like this. But, you know, statements like the ones he made in
4 his verified 2019 statement that he submitted to this Court
5 about his signature page being attached to other proofs of
6 claim without disclosing who or when, that's a purely factual
7 issue, as are, you know, who he -- who -- you know, some
8 issues directly going to this hearing.

9 And I could go on, but I think Your Honor has not
10 been asleep during these hearings and knows exactly, like, the
11 range of issues that are covered by him. And, you know, it's
12 like we'd be looking to do this deposition any day between now
13 and Wednesday that is of convenience to Mr. Kosnoff. He's --
14 Mr. Kosnoff was, I believe, if I read the Zoom thing
15 correctly, he was on the last hearing on Wednesday, so he knew
16 about our application. We spoke to his lawyer about it; his
17 lawyer submitted a letter about it. His lawyer's main
18 contention in the letter was that a subpoena hadn't been
19 served, but we've submitted copies of the subpoena, so -- and
20 with the declaration of service, et cetera.

21 I don't know at this point whether we even, in a
22 sense, need a subpoena given -- it's like the Court, you know,
23 has the facts before it, you know, concerning this hearing
24 about things that are directly important him.

25 I thought I saw Mr. Kosnoff appear on the Zoom bar

1 above, so I think he may actually be on the line right now.
2 It is true Mr. Wilks told us he would not attend today, his
3 lawyer, he said he was driving somewhere.

4 So, you know, we'd be prepared to have the
5 application decided just on the papers.

6 THE COURT: Well, let me say this -- and I wish I
7 knew my Shakespeare better --

8 MR. WILKS: Your Honor --

9 THE COURT: -- but --

10 MR. WILKS: -- Your Honor?

11 THE COURT: I'm hearing some --

12 MR. WILKS: Your Honor, David Wilks. I'm sorry --

13 THE COURT: Mr. Wilks.

14 MR. WILKS: Your Honor, can you hear me?

15 THE COURT: Yes.

16 MR. WILKS: Thank you, Your Honor. I have deep
17 apologies to the Court for participating in this way. I am
18 actually in the car. I have a family commitment that is
19 absolutely unavoidable. And so I hope Your Honor can hear me
20 and I hope Your Honor will forgive me for not appearing more
21 appropriately.

22 But, if you can hear me, I would say, Your Honor,
23 that there's just -- there's just an awful lot of reasons why
24 it's inappropriate for Mr. Schiavoni's motion to be presented
25 this morning. First of all, it was never noticed, there was

1 never a motion to shorten notice, it's not on the agenda, and
2 so forth. This is, you know, one more attempt that Mr.
3 Schiavoni has made to depose Mr. Kosnoff and, you know, he
4 never sort of lets a good crisis go to waste.

5 The main thrust our motion was really two or
6 threefold. One -- or our opposition -- one, yes, there was no
7 subpoena served, and I can speak to what was submitted last
8 night in reply for the first time in a moment, but really,
9 Your Honor -- and I say this with all respect to Your Honor
10 and this Court and this district, because this is where I've
11 practiced my whole career -- this is the wrong court for Mr.
12 Schiavoni to seek to enforce any subpoena that he has served,
13 whether it's been served or not, because the subpoena that he
14 claims to have served and the one that he actually did serve
15 for the record was issued out of the Central District of
16 California.

17 And so, under the rules -- and we put this in our
18 letter and Your Honor -- Your Honor has been getting a lot of
19 stuff, so I wouldn't be surprised if Your Honor wasn't able to
20 get to my letter -- but the fact is Your Honor, frankly, just
21 doesn't have jurisdiction over this application.

22 Now, there's also been an enormous failure of meet-
23 and-confer on this because I asked Mr. Schiavoni -- he told me
24 about three weeks ago that there's a notice of deposition and
25 I asked him to send it to me, I hadn't seen it. I never heard

1 from him again. The next thing I heard about any deposition
2 subpoena was the motion.

3 So, for that reason alone, the motion needs to be
4 denied because they never met and conferred on it. I asked
5 him for it three weeks ago, he never sent it to me; it was not
6 attached to the motion. And, if he had met and conferred with
7 me, I would have asked him, would you please show me the
8 subpoena that you're talking about, but I never had that
9 chance. He filed a motion without attaching the discovery at
10 issue, that's a violation of the rules too, and he saved it up
11 for a reply. And, candidly, Your Honor -- I don't want to get
12 into this because I'm going to raise questions that I don't
13 like in court without a lot of consideration, a lot of
14 evaluation, but what was submitted last night, Your Honor,
15 raises an awful lot of questions that do bear analysis and do
16 bear careful evaluation before Your Honor goes and orders a
17 deposition on such extremely short notice.

18 So I'll stop talking now, Your Honor. Thank you.

19 THE COURT: Okay, thank you.

20 I -- as I --

21 MR. SCHIAVONI: Your Honor, they do -- Mr. Kosnoff
22 -- sorry, Your Honor, my apologies.

23 THE COURT: I don't need anything further on this.
24 As I said, I wish I knew my Shakespeare better.

25 I don't view the hearing on Wednesday as centrally

1 focused on Mr. Kosnoff, although he's a player and his letter
2 is there and, if he wants to participate, he should. But I
3 think the question is about solicitation and what happened and
4 the committee's participation, the use of the official
5 committee email, whether this is an improper solicitation or
6 not, whether it's perfectly acceptable, that's what I consider
7 the hearing on Wednesday to be about and any further steps
8 that we may need to take to remediate any harm that may have
9 happened.

10 I will say this, however, that I do view Mr.
11 Kosnoff as a participant in the solicitation communication
12 that went out from the committee and, as a participant in a
13 solicitation, I think he's squarely in front of me for
14 jurisdiction, so -- for jurisdiction purposes. He has now
15 injected himself into this case in a way he may not have done
16 before.

17 But I haven't seen the subpoena that went out. If
18 it went out from the court in California, then I think Mr.
19 Wilks is right, under Rule 45, as I recall it, about how one
20 enforces it, and you can get the court in California to refer
21 it to me. They may not want to get mixed up in this mess. So
22 I think that's the rule on Rule 45, and I have on every
23 occasion Rule 45 has been put in front of me said that
24 compliance with the rule is what has to happen because that's
25 the rule.

1 So I'll look at those papers, but in terms of
2 whether that subpoena is the appropriate subpoena and whether
3 I can have the jurisdiction at this point with that subpoena,
4 from what I'm hearing, that may not be the case, but I'll look
5 at it.

6 Ms. Lauria?

7 MS. LAURIA: Thank you, Your Honor. Going back to
8 logistics for next week. And, obviously, we're still wading
9 through the discovery that we received last night, there may
10 be -- there likely will be in response to some of the
11 statements made today in court by Ms. Grassgreen some follow-
12 up discovery we're going to need and potentially depositions.
13 But, in any event, Your Honor, we would ask that the committee
14 file response papers -- which we have not seen their response
15 yet -- by Monday, so that we could potentially put in
16 something supplemental on Tuesday and be prepared and ready to
17 go on Wednesday.

18 I know the Court indicated last week that you would
19 be open to potentially considering an in-person hearing. I'm
20 not sure if that's still your perspective, Your Honor, but
21 certainly the debtors are willing and able to appear in
22 person, if that's the direction the Court would like to go.
23 We do think this is a very serious matter and one that does
24 rise to the level of deserving an in-person hearing, if that's
25 where you want to go.

1 Thank you, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 Ms. Grassgreen?

4 MS. GRASSGREEN: Thank you, Your Honor. I think
5 that the timing of a response is fine, first of all, but what
6 I wanted to address with Your Honor was the scope of the
7 hearing on Wednesday and what we are and what we aren't
8 considering, because I went back and I pulled up the motion
9 and the order and the relief that was requested -- and there's
10 been a lot of other things that have been thrown out since the
11 motion was filed -- one of the drafts of the letter that was
12 provided to us wanted us to say we understand we might be
13 subject to sanctions. There's no sanctions motion in front of
14 you; that may happen. There's no designation motion in front
15 of you; that may happen.

16 I think those are the topics, but the relief that
17 was requested in the motion -- I'm looking at the order now -
18 - was a couple of things that, frankly, we've already agreed
19 to. And so I just -- I want to understand what we're talking
20 about so that we can make sure we tailor our response to this
21 motion, understanding that there's lots of other issues that
22 we know are going to come up and we'll deal with them when
23 they come up and if we need to. For example, vote designation
24 may or may not ever be an issue depending on the voting here.

25 But the order and the motion asks that we refrain

1 from distributing for the entirety of the case any
2 communications on behalf of any state court counsel through
3 our official Listserv, which that term, I'm not sure exactly
4 what that means, but, in any event, we agreed to that, we're
5 willing to do that, and we're willing to agree to their second
6 request that it only be used for official business. We're
7 willing to give them notice of any substantive communication
8 and we had some language that we've sent them, but they
9 haven't had a chance to respond to, about what they mean by
10 substantive. For example, can we send a town hall notice.
11 And the last thing was to send this email, the corrected
12 email, which we've just been talking about.

13 So I guess where I am, Your Honor, is I'm trying to
14 understand what it is that you would like for us to address on
15 Wednesday because there isn't a sanctions motion pending,
16 there isn't relief pending related to that, there's no -- and
17 so -- and there's not a designation motion pending, because I
18 think that frames what we do. And I'm not trying to downplay
19 it, I'm not trying to say that it's not important, it
20 absolutely is, but I just think given everything that's going
21 on, mediation happening, the goal is to not have this impact
22 confirmation. I just thought we should understand what it is
23 that you're going to be asked to decide on Wednesday and what
24 it is that we're going to address substantively at a later
25 hearing.

1 THE COURT: Okay. So, Ms. Grassgreen, you're
2 telling me, as I'm looking at the order, that the committee
3 has agreed to each one of the requests for relief --

4 MS. GRASSGREEN: We agreed --

5 THE COURT: -- for each one of the ordering
6 paragraphs?

7 MS. GRASSGREEN: On paragraph 3(a), we agreed;
8 3(b), we agreed; 3(c), we agreed, but we had a "provided that"
9 that said things like the town hall, it doesn't apply to the
10 town hall or it doesn't apply to committee members
11 communicating. We just wanted to clarify because
12 "substantive" is not a term. And then on paragraph 4, you
13 just addressed it.

14 So we did send a markup of an order along this to
15 the debtor and the other parties and they have had it, and
16 they advised us that they weren't prepared to engage with us
17 about it until they saw the discovery, which we understand.
18 But, in light of today with the email -- I mean, we could have
19 a hearing on Wednesday on short notice on what is clearly a
20 critical issue to talk about whether a further communication
21 has to go out, if that's productive, but I'm just trying to
22 understand what it is that we're going to do on Wednesday. I
23 think, you know, you're busy as well and that makes sense, in
24 light of our position on the order.

25 THE COURT: Thank you.

1 Ms. Lauria, so Ms. Grassgreen raises a good
2 question.

3 MS. LAURIA: Your Honor, thank you, two responses.

4 First, with respect to 3(c) -- and I apologize, I
5 don't have their markup in front of me, but I believe that's
6 the section referring to the use of the Listserv for further
7 communications. As I indicated on -- I guess our hearing was
8 on Wednesday -- after we see the discovery, we may be seeking
9 further relief and that relief may certainly impact 3(c). I
10 know they would like to continue to use the Listserv for
11 further communications. We may be encouraging the Court that
12 they can't be using that Listserv at all.

13 We've already heard from Mr. Goldfarb today that he
14 wants his clients -- he contacted Mr. Lucas and asked his
15 clients to be completely taken off the Listserv, and I think
16 that may be a very necessary form of relief that we are
17 seeking next week.

18 With respect to greater forms of relief, you'll see
19 in the proposed form of order -- and I did indicate this on
20 Wednesday -- we do reserve our rights. I don't believe that
21 Wednesday is going to be a vote designation hearing. I do not
22 think we will be in a position where the dust will have
23 settled enough on what has happened vis-a-vis this
24 communication to make that determination, so we're certainly
25 not going to ask for that.

1 With respect to sanctions, I do expect, Your Honor,
2 that we will be seeking significant relief with respect to
3 legal fees that have been incurred in prosecuting this action.
4 At this point, I can't tell you that's before the Court on
5 Wednesday. I recognize that that may not be emergency relief
6 that needs to be heard, but I do want to highlight that for
7 the Court.

8 And then, you know, we also -- candidly, Your
9 Honor, we just need to see the discovery because, if the
10 discovery comes out -- and I'm going to choose my words
11 carefully in a particular way -- we may need to seek urgent
12 relief with respect to what the committee is able to do in
13 terms of communications going forward and I just -- I don't
14 have the answer to that today.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MS. GRASSGREEN: Your Honor, may I just briefly
17 respond?

18 We get all of the reservation of rights, we have no
19 issue with that, we just can't respond to what they haven't
20 brought forward. So it seems like the only thing that they --
21 that is a question is the use of the Listserv, at this moment,
22 acknowledging that after discovery it might, but I think that
23 bears on what are we doing Wednesday because, if there is
24 other relief, I think you would agree that we would need to be
25 provided notice of it and an opportunity to respond.

1 THE COURT: I do agree with that. So I guess what
2 I would like to know is -- but I -- well, the debtors need to
3 have an opportunity to take a look at the discovery responses.

4 MS. GRASSGREEN: Agreed.

5 THE COURT: So I would like to know, once you've
6 done that, whether the committee's exculpation of substantive
7 communications has -- if there's any disagreement there. If
8 there's not, then I'm not sure I see the need for a hearing on
9 Wednesday. If there is and there's something we need to
10 address, we can address that on Wednesday.

11 I do want to make certain that the parties' time is
12 focused on where it needs to be focused. This is -- as you
13 can tell, I think it's an immensely important issue that needs
14 to be addressed, we've started addressing it. If there's
15 anything further on the remediation issue or any of the relief
16 sought by way of this motion, then I'm available Wednesday,
17 but I'd like the parties to have discussion about what is
18 necessary to have. Sanctions can wait, designation is
19 premature. Maybe we'll be lucky and any harm to the voting
20 process is minimal, if any, to the extent we can know, and
21 we'll have to deal with that as that comes up.

22 So I'd like the parties to talk and, actually, I'd
23 like to have a -- I'd like to know where parties are by, say,
24 noon on Monday as to what issues are open or not.

25 MS. GRASSGREEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

1 MS. LAURIA: Very good, Your Honor. We will confer
2 with Ms. Grassgreen after we review the discovery. Thank you.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 Mr. Goldfarb, I see your hand.

5 MR. GOLDFARB: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you. I just
6 wanted to correct the record. Ms. Lauria's comment about what
7 our preference is as to the communications for our client
8 wasn't quite accurate. I'm working with the TCC about which
9 communications should receive. Many of our clients find the
10 TCC communications enormously valuable and helpful. And so I
11 just -- the representation that we sort of want to be
12 absolutely scrubbed from the TCC distribution list just wasn't
13 accurate because the TCC's communications in general have been
14 super helpful for our clients.

15 Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Thank you. And, Mr. Goldfarb, I think
17 the point is that counsel for these individual survivors
18 should be the ones to be making those kinds of determinations.

19 Mr. Abbott?

20 MR. ABBOTT: Thank you, Your Honor. Derek Abbott,
21 again, of Morris Nichols for the debtors.

22 Your Honor, we have all had a long weekend and
23 couple of days, but there is one matter that's off-agenda,
24 Your Honor, that was tangentially raised at the hearing last
25 week that -- just to hasten our discovery and focus on, as

1 Your Honor said, where we need to be, getting ready for the
2 hearing December -- or -- I wonder -- or, excuse me, January,
3 Your Honor -- I wonder if I might raise one issue that I
4 believe is resolved, but that will allow the debtors to get
5 out that last bit of discovery that they have been holding
6 based on our letter that appears at Docket Item 7031.

7 Your Honor, that letter asked for relief on two
8 points, the production of certain communications between the
9 debtors and the insurers that were related to the TDPs and the
10 production of documents containing the names of alleged
11 survivors. The deadline for the response to that letter was
12 last evening, Your Honor; we did not get any responses. So we
13 believe that it's uncontested and, to that end, would ask if
14 we could submit an order to the Court. Obviously, we didn't
15 want to do that without making sure that the Court didn't have
16 further questions.

17 And I apologize sort of burdening this already
18 difficult hearing with this matter, but it will facilitate
19 discovery, I think, and help the parties get ready more
20 quickly for the confirmation hearing, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: So I don't have that in front of me,
22 but my recollection -- well, remind me of the two forms. One
23 it was communications between the debtor and insurer. I don't
24 recall that there was any privilege raised and I think my
25 question after reading that letter was what do you need from

1 me, because I don't think there was any controversy.

2 Then the second part of it -- but I may be wrong on
3 that -- the second part of it was permitting sensitive
4 information, names and et cetera, to go out to certain people
5 or not be redacted from the discovery, survivor names'
6 information not to be redacted from discovery. And I guess
7 the question I had there was, we have a protective order in
8 place, does this not fall under the protective order?

9 MR. ABBOTT: Well, Your Honor, that's part of the
10 relief we sought. Maybe I should turn it over to Mr. Azer,
11 who has been closer to this issue, to give you the absolute
12 specifics there, if I may?

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 MR. AZER: Good morning, Your Honor, Adrian Azer
15 from Haynes and Boone on behalf of the debtors. Can you hear
16 me?

17 THE COURT: I can.

18 MR. AZER: Great. So, on the first issue, Your
19 Honor, the reason we raised it with the Court is initially we
20 had framed those communications with the insurers as common
21 interest privilege, and we obviously inquired with the
22 insurers if they had any issue with it. Given the time
23 constraints, we had not heard back from all the insurers and
24 to date we still haven't, but no insurers have objected. So
25 the reason we brought it before Your Honor was just to make

1 sure there was no issue, that no one had an issue with it, but
2 given that we don't, I don't think there is an issue that now
3 needs to be resolved by the Court. I think we can produce it
4 without any concerns on the first topic.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. AZER: Does that address your question?

7 Now, the second question, Your Honor, I'm actually
8 going to defer to one of my colleagues at White & Case because
9 they're closest to that issue on the redaction of the names.

10 MR. KURTS: Good morning, Your Honor, Glenn Kurts
11 from White & Case on behalf of the debtors.

12 Your Honor has it exactly right that there is a
13 protective order that protects misinformation. What we have
14 proposed to do, given how sensitive it is, is to designate the
15 information as highly confidential, produce it, and then if
16 anyone wants to make use of that either in the deposition
17 testimony with respect to a pleading or anything else, that
18 they can then redact the names.

19 So it seemed a little outside maybe normal
20 parameters, but it was our effort -- we would normally redact,
21 but it's really impossible to do so, there's tens of thousands
22 of pages. Their litigation documents, so the name is all over
23 the place. Even if we did go through the exercise, which
24 would take more time than I think would be appropriate and
25 would burden the estates, it would be all but certain that

1 there would be certain times that something was missed, which
2 is often the case with redactions.

3 So our proposal is merely to designate it as highly
4 confidential. Everybody who wants to see it, of course, just
5 has to be party to the protective order if they do want to use
6 it. Then, as I mentioned, they can redact the name or file
7 under seal, and we think that's the best way to minimize
8 burden and to protect the identifiers of these victims and
9 also accuseds.

10 THE COURT: Okay, that makes sense to me and --

11 MR. SCHIAVONI: Judge, could I be heard before you
12 rule?

13 THE COURT: Yes. Are you concerned about the
14 protective order or the first issue?

15 MR. SCHIAVONI: This issue of releasing common
16 interest information.

17 THE COURT: Okay, then give me a second.

18 So on the protective order and the -- I guess the
19 request not to have to redact before discovery, I think, under
20 the circumstances, that's fine. When you're producing the
21 documents, obviously, you'll designate them. Please remind
22 everybody of the sensitivity and the protective order. And,
23 yes, if anybody is going to want to use anything, we can deal
24 with that, but it does seem to be appropriate that it should
25 be redacted at that time. Okay.

1 MR. KURTS: Thank you very much, Your Honor, we
2 will do that.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 Mr. Schiavoni, on the first, the common interest
5 issue.

6 MR. SCHIAVONI: Yeah, Your Honor, I'm now a little
7 nervous about what they -- if the only issue here was if
8 there's a non -- completely non-privileged document, a
9 pleading or such that has the name of a claimant on it and
10 they want to operate under the protective order in that
11 regard, that seems to me totally fine, but I'm a little
12 worried that this is sort of being used as a Trojan horse,
13 because we were asked what our position was on releasing
14 common interest privileged material and we made it clear that
15 that material should not be released.

16 It's like we're in a case here where none, not a
17 single charter organization associated with the Boy Scouts is
18 going to receive protection under this plan. They're all
19 being sent back in the tort system for litigation, and we're
20 being faced with ongoing litigation, in essence, with this
21 trustee over claims involving the local councils to turn over
22 privileged information that's essential to the ongoing defense
23 of claims -- first of all, it would vitiate coverage, I think,
24 if they did that intentionally over our objection -- and, to
25 be clear, we object to that -- but it also would create

1 immense harm, you know, to these charities and whatnot that
2 are in the case.

3 So that, yes, we object to the release of any
4 common interest material. If they're -- and, you know, to be
5 clear, what they -- you know, what they have sort of hinted at
6 in the past is like material that derives from underlying
7 defense counsel and involves statements and recommendations on
8 cases and whatnot, you know, that material should just not be
9 released. I mean, if they have pleadings where they have
10 somebody's name in it, it seems to me that's one thing, but if
11 this is something else, there is not consensus on it and there
12 ought to be briefing before it's released wholesale.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I --

14 MR. AZER: Your Honor, may I address that?

15 THE COURT: -- I didn't have this on my radar
16 screen. So, Mr. Azer, are you going to tell me it's not
17 common interest privilege?

18 MR. AZER: It's not -- no, it's not the documents
19 that Mr. Schiavoni is talking about. The only documents we
20 are -- we filed -- and, by the way, the objection deadline has
21 passed -- Mr. Schiavoni, the only communications we're talking
22 about are Haynes and Boone's communications with insurers'
23 counsel related to the TDPs. You're talking about a
24 completely different set of documents that is not at issue in
25 the letter. What you're talking about is apples and oranges.

1 We're talking about only the communications between Haynes and
2 Boone and the insurers related to the TDPs.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MR. SCHIAVONI: Well, I just -- you know, there are
5 some of those that embed underlying defense materials, you
6 know, that I think you ought to show them to us first --

7 MR. AZER: No, they don't.

8 MR. SCHIAVONI: -- I think you ought to show them
9 to us first and then we can tell you if there's an issue about
10 common interest material or not.

11 THE COURT: Okay. So let me say this again, then.
12 I think my recollection -- thank you for that -- is right.

13 My question after I read that letter, albeit
14 quickly, was what are you asking me for. They're either
15 privileged and you should not produce them or they're not
16 privileged and you should produce them. If there's a
17 privilege concern or you're not sure, or there's an issue why
18 any privilege that is available to those documents should be
19 overridden, then you need to bring that to me. But my
20 recollection now from reading the letter is, they're
21 privileged or they're not, and I don't think privilege was
22 raised.

23 So I'll go back and look at it too, but you guys
24 need to talk. Let me know if there's an issue, we'll get it
25 on quickly.

1 MR. AZER: Yes. Yes, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Hogan?

3 MS. GRASSGREEN: Your Honor --

4 MR. HOGAN: Thank you, Your Honor, just briefly.
5 Your instruction for me to reach out to Cross & Simon and Mr.
6 Grey with regard to AVA Law, I just wanted to understand the
7 mechanism in the event that they have an issue with the
8 dissemination of the letter.

9 THE COURT: Contact chambers and we'll set up a
10 continued hearing on it.

11 MR. HOGAN: Right, and so that 12 o'clock deadline
12 on Monday doesn't apply to that. If I find out sooner, I'll
13 let you know right away.

14 THE COURT: Yes, please let me know as soon as you
15 know.

16 MR. HOGAN: Okay. Thank you.

17 THE COURT: Thank you. I see Ms. Wolff.

18 MS. GRASSGREEN: Your Honor, just to understand
19 that point then, we should wait to hear from Mr. Hogan before
20 sending the communication rather than sending it today? I'm
21 just going to --

22 THE COURT: I would like to know if he's got an
23 issue. I think you all should reach out to him too, but I
24 think we need to try to get to him as soon as possible.

25 MS. GRASSGREEN: Okay. So just we will not send

1 anything until we confirm that.

2 THE COURT: As I said from the beginning, I'm
3 concerned with sending communications to represented parties
4 from a law firm.

5 Okay. Ms. Wolff?

6 MS. WOLFF: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor. And I
7 apologize that my video is not on. It's about 3:00 a.m. over
8 here in Guam and this matter was not on the agenda, so I
9 wasn't prepared to be visible.

10 THE COURT: It's okay.

11 MS. WOLFF: Just going back to, Your Honor, the
12 protective order issue.

13 THE COURT: Yes.

14 MS. WOLFF: I did intend to file a responsive
15 letter today. I guess it's maybe my mistake in calculating
16 the deadline; I didn't count Veterans Day in the three-day
17 timing. And so, Your Honor, I was going to file something
18 that is not necessarily oppose the relief that's requested by
19 the Boy Scouts, but to point out that I do find it problematic
20 for the Boy Scouts to produce documents, including deposition
21 transcripts, that many of which are from my clients and which
22 with some of them do include Social Security numbers, whole
23 Social Security numbers.

24 And so in the Boy Scouts' letter they did indicate,
25 I think it was in one of their last sentences of the letter,

1 that they are prepared to -- at the request of a party or
2 counsel, they are prepared to go through a reasonable number
3 of documents and to redact the names and other personal
4 identifying information. And so that's what I intended to do
5 was to tell them that I believe that my clients -- I
6 understand names are already a part of the proofs of claim,
7 but not their full Social Security numbers. And although some
8 of them may have it, this is going to a broader audience than
9 people under the protective order or the bar date order who
10 are permitted to look at proofs of claim.

11 I mean, right now I am not -- as counsel for
12 certain survivors I'm not allowed to see any other survivors
13 who's not a client's proof of claim numbers. And this
14 document production would go to a broader audience, it would
15 go to other survivors' counsel, it would go to insurers and
16 chartered organizations who have nothing to do with my
17 clients' claims, and so they wouldn't see our proofs of claim
18 and the sensitive information there.

19 And so I just wanted to state that I do think that
20 the Boy Scouts should make every effort to redact Social
21 Security numbers. I understand that the names, you know,
22 that's going to be in a lot, you know, more places and
23 transcripts and that would be difficult, but it's not
24 difficult to pinpoint where in the transcripts, the one time
25 that the Social Security number is mentioned. And so I just

1 wanted to state that, Your Honor. Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Wolff.

3 Mr. Kurts?

4 MR. KURTS: Your Honor, just briefly. We're not
5 producing to anybody who's not party to a protective order and
6 Social Security information is confidential, but that's why we
7 have protective orders and that will be protected. It is
8 certainly not easy for us to identify ten digits in tens of
9 thousands of pages when we don't even know what they are. I
10 just don't think it's a burden that's required and I don't
11 think anybody would be in a position to misuse, but -- and
12 they couldn't do that without violating the protective order.

13 And certainly, if counsel, Ms. Wolff, wants to
14 identify the Social Security numbers for her clients, we'd be
15 happy to replace our production, which we would like to get
16 out right away so people have it, with her production. And
17 everybody can otherwise destroy what we produce with respect
18 to her clients or any other counsel who wants to undertake the
19 burden themselves to protect their clients Social Security
20 numbers somehow beyond that protection that's afforded by a
21 protective order.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

23 MS. WOLFF: And, Your Honor, if I can just respond
24 briefly? I suspect that this protective order issue may have
25 been brought about when I reached out to debtors' counsel and

1 raised the issue, and it's because I reached out to them. And
2 so I doubt that other survivors' counsel even have the ability
3 or the notice that they would need in order to say, hey, Boy
4 Scouts, I have a problem with you releasing my Social Security
5 information. It's because I reached out to them that this --
6 that -- it's because I noticed it, Your Honor, because I'm a
7 participating parties, my clients are participating parties
8 that I'm aware of this. But people who haven't yet filed, you
9 know, their notice that they're going to be participating
10 parties, they don't necessarily have the notice, they don't
11 have the discovery requests and so far their responses and
12 objections from the debtors, and so they may not know that the
13 Boy Scouts are willing to work with them or that there's even
14 a possibility that their client's sensitive information is
15 going to be distributed to a wider audience.

16 And that's just a concern that I have is because
17 the Boy Scouts were saying that they're going to do this,
18 they're willing to do this, but then they're not telling
19 people that there's even a risk that their client's
20 information is going to be produced.

21 So, thank you.

22 THE COURT: Thank you. I appreciate the
23 sensitivity of the information, but I think that is why we
24 have protective orders. It's going to be designated highly
25 confidential. People have to be -- have to sign off on their

1 -- to be a party to it or an expert who's signed off, I'm
2 assuming there's a page for that. So I think that's what can
3 be done under the circumstances.

4 Okay.

5 MR. HOGAN: Your Honor, Dan Hogan again. I hate to
6 belabor the point, Your Honor, but what I heard Ms. Grassgreen
7 indicate was that until I hear back from AVA Law and Joe Grey,
8 that they're not going to send out a letter, and I'm concerned
9 if I don't hear back from Joe Grey that this thing could
10 derail and get pushed into next week.

11 THE COURT: Well, I'm hoping that Mr. Grey or
12 someone in his office is around and we can have an indication
13 today.

14 MR. HOGAN: I've already sent an email to Mr. Grey
15 during the pendency of this hearing, Your Honor, so --

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 MR. HOGAN: -- I'm trying to move the ball forward.

18 THE COURT: I appreciate that.

19 Okay, I think that concludes this hearing. My
20 chambers can be reached, if we hear from Mr. Grey and there's
21 a no, and then I'll make some decisions, but in the first
22 instance I'm going to give him an opportunity. I know Ms.
23 Lauria and Ms. Grassgreen will be speaking with respect to
24 next week's hearing.

25 And, in the meantime, if there are other discovery

1 disputes, let's -- we have next Friday already set aside for
2 discovery disputes. Please, when you file something, contact
3 chambers to let us know, so that we have it on the list.

4 Okay?

5 MR. SCHIAVONI: And, Judge --

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 MR. SCHIAVONI: -- just to try -- just in the
8 interest of trying to avoid a discovery dispute, okay? I
9 heard you loud and clear and I'm not arguing anything about
10 the ruling that you made sort of in connection with the
11 Kosnoff deposition, but I can go out and file a motion to
12 transfer and generate lots of activity that way. I thought
13 Your Honor indicated that Mr. Kosnoff, to the extent he
14 injected himself in solicitation, was subject to the
15 jurisdiction of the Court. So, alternatively, I could just
16 issue a notice and work with Mr. Wilks on an appropriate day.
17 And if the Court was of the view that a notice would be
18 adequate, I can avoid, you know, having to go through three
19 weeks of back and forth on the transfer.

20 So, I'm sorry if I asked for like a view on that if
21 it's not appropriate, it's just meant to speed things along,
22 but would a notice work here?

23 THE COURT: I think a notice works.

24 MR. SCHIAVONI: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much then,

1 counsel. We are adjourned.

2 COUNSEL: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 (Proceedings concluded at 12:09 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

9

10 We certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
11 from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the
12 above-entitled matter.

13

14 /s/Mary Zajaczkowski November 12, 2021
Mary Zajaczkowski, CET**D-531

15

16 /s/William J. Garling November 12, 2021
William J. Garling, CE/T 543

17

18 /s/ Tracey J. Williams November 12, 2021
Tracey J. Williams, CET-914

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